

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05393 100628Z
ACTION PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5393

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: EVENING REPORT FOR JUNE 9, 1977

1. MRS. CARTER RECEIVED A WARM SENDOFF FROM ATLANTA'S SISTER CITY, RECIFE, THIS MORNING BY A LARGE GATHERING OF LOCAL CITIZENS BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR. MUCH OF THE DAY WAS SPENT TRAVELLING ACROSS THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT TO BOGOTA COLOMBIA. SHE WAS RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT BY MRS. LOPEZ MICHELSEN AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. ALTHOUGH MRS. LOPEZ GAVE NOT ARRIVAL STATEMENT, ONE WAS GIVEN BY MRS. CARTER(TEXT OF WHICH HAS BEEN SENT SEPTTEL).

2. DESPITE THE CORDIAL WELCOME AFFORDED HER BY THE COLOMBIANS, BOTH THE ARRIVAL AND THE BALANCE OF THE DAY WAS CLOUDED BY OMNIPRESENT AND HEAVILY ARMED SECURITY FORCES. THEY WERE EVIDENT NOT ONLY AT THE AIRPORT AND ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE BUT A VAN OF SOLDIERS ACCOMPANIED MRS. CARTER IN THE MOTORCADE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THE SECURITY WAS, ACCORDING TO OUR HOSTS, A PRECAUTION AGAINST POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE UN OERSITY SUTDENTS SINCE THIS IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF STUDENT RIOTS DURING WHICH SOME STUDENTS WERE KILLED.

3. MRS. CARTER'S FIRST EVENT OF THE AFTERNOON WAS AT THE CENTRO COLOMBIA AMERICANO (THE BI-NATIONAL CENTER) WHERE
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SHE MET WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE OFFICERS OF A NUMBER OF LEADING INSTITUTIONS WITH LARGE U.S. PARTICIPATION. THE GATHERING WAS WELL ATTENDDED AND BOTH SHE AND HER REMARKS WERE WELL AND WARMLY RECEIVED. AS PART OF THE CEREMONY SHE PLANTED A TREE IN THE BI-CENTENNIAL PARK IN FRONT OF THE CENTRO. FROM THERE SHE PROCEEDED TO THE U.S.EMBASSY TO SPEAK WITH AND MEET U.S. AND COLOMBIAN EMPLOYEES.

4. AS PART OF HER PREPARATIONS FOR HER TALKS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN TOMORROW, A BRIEFING WAS ARRANGED FOR HER BY THE EMBASSY ON THE LOCAL NARCOTICS PROGRAM, THE EXTENT OF COOPERATION RECEIVED AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

5. THIS EVENING WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION HOSTED BY MRS. LOPEZ. UPON ARRIVAL AT PALACIO SAN CARLOS SHE WAS ESCORTED INTO A SMALL PRIVATE ROOM FOR A BRIEF SOCIAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. LOPEZ. THE MEETING WAS PURELY SOCIAL AND NO BUSINESS WAS RAISED OR DISCUSSED BY EITHER SIDE. THE RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY COLOMBIAN MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES, U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR WIVES, LEADING WOMEN OFFICIALS AND WIVES OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THE INCLUSION OF THE MINISTERS AND THE U.S. OFFICIALS WAS AN EXPANSION OF THE GUEST LIST FROM A PURELY "WIVES ONLY" AFFAIR TO SOMETHING WHICH REFLECTED THE GROWING COLOMBIAN REALIZATION THAT MRS. CARTER'S TOUR IS SUBSTANTIVE AND SERIOUS AND NOT SIMPLY A FLYING COFFEE KLATCH.

6. THE EVENING CONCLUDED WITH AN INFORMAL BUFFET AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE HOSTED BY MRS. CARTER. INCLUDED IN THE GUEST LIST WERE PROMINENT PERSONALITIES FROM THE COLOMBIAN BUSINESS, CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY. MRS. CARTER SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE GATHERING.

7. ALTHOUGH THE DAY WAS ALMOST DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE, THE RECEPTION THAT SHE RECEIVED AT ALL OF HER APPEARANCES
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REEMPHASIZED THE WARMTH THAT SHE HAS CONVEYED THROUGHOUT THE TRIP AND SET THE STAGE FOR POSITIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN TOMORROW.
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